## Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula I, or a-pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof:

wherein

 $R^1$  is phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; pyrrolyl; or thiazolyl, wherein  $R^1$  is optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, halogenated  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CF<sub>3</sub>,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo; selected from  $C_{6-10}$ aryl and  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl, wherein said  $C_{6-10}$ aryl and  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from R, NO<sub>2</sub>, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -C(-O)R, -C(-O)OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -SH, -NHR, -NR<sub>2</sub>, -SR, -SO<sub>2</sub>H, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -S(-O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(-O)OR, -C(-O)NR<sub>2</sub>, -NRC(-O)R, and -NRC(-O)OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; and  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are, independently,  $C_{1-3}$ alkyl or halogenated  $C_{1-5}$ alkyl selected from hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, and  $C_{2-6}$ cycloalkyl, wherein said  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl and  $C_{2-6}$ cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from R, NO<sub>2</sub>, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -C(-O)R, -C(-O)DR, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -SH, -NHR, -NR<sub>2</sub>, -SR, -SO<sub>2</sub>H, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -SC<sub>1</sub>O, -CN, -CH, -C(-O)OR, -C(-O)OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -SH, -NHR, -NR<sub>2</sub>, -SR, -SO<sub>2</sub>H, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -SC<sub>1</sub>ON, -CN, -CH, -C(-O)OR, -C(-O)OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -SH, -NHR, -NR<sub>2</sub>, -SR, -SO<sub>2</sub>H, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -SC<sub>2</sub>ON, -CN, -CH, -C(-O)OH, -C(-O)OR, -C(-O)OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -SH, -NHR, -NR<sub>2</sub>, -SR, -SO<sub>2</sub>H, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -SC<sub>2</sub>ON, -CN, -CH, -C(-O)OH, -C(-O)OH,

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<sub>6</sub>alkyl; and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

2. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof

C(=0)NR2 -NRC(=0)R, and -NRC(=0)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C1-

wherein  $R^1$  is selected from phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazelyl; triazelyl; pyrrolyl; or thiazelyl; and N-exido-pyridyl, wherein  $R^1$  is optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from  $C_{1-\theta}$ alkyl, halogenated  $G_{1-\theta}$ alkyl,  $-NO_{2\tau}$   $-CF_{3\tau}$   $C_{1-\theta}$ -alkexy, chlore, fluoro, brome, and inde:

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> are, independently, C<sub>1:3</sub>alkyl o<del>r halogenated C<sub>1:3</sub>alkyl</del>; and R<sup>5</sup> is selected from hydrogen; C<sub>1:6</sub>alkyl, and <u>or C<sub>3:6</sub>eyeloalkyl</u>, wherein said C<sub>1:6</sub>alkyl and G<sub>2:6</sub>eyeloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1:6</sub>alkyl, halogenated C<sub>1:6</sub>alkyl, -NO<sub>2</sub>. CF<sub>3</sub>. C<sub>1:6</sub>alkoxy, chlore, fluore, brome, and iede.

3. (currently amended) A compound according to <u>claim 2</u> <u>claim 1</u>, <u>or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof</u>

wherein R¹ is selected from phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazelyl; pyrrelyl; and or thiazelyl, wherein R⁴ is optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1+8</sub>alkyl, halogenated C<sub>1+8</sub>alkyl, NO<sub>2</sub>, CF<sub>8</sub>, C<sub>1+5</sub> alkexy, chloro, fluoro, brome, and iede:

R2 and R3 are ethyl; R2, R3, and

R<sup>4</sup> <u>is methyl are, independently, C₄alkyl or halogenated C₄alkyl</u>; and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

4. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof wherein R<sup>1</sup> is -selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl, -and-or thiazolyl; R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are ethyl:

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are ethyl

R<sup>4</sup> is C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl; and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

 (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof, wherein the compound is selected from:

N,N-diethyl-4-{{3-[(methylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl}{1-(thien-2-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidenelmethyl)benzamide:

N,N-diethyl-4-[[1-(2-furanylmethyl)-4-piperidinylidene][3-[(methylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[[1-(phenylmethyl)-4-piperidinylidene][3-[(methylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]-benzamide:

N,N-diethyl-4-[[3-((methylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl][1-(3-pyridinylmethyl)-4-piperidinylidene]methyl]-benzamide;  $\underline{and}$ 

 $\label{eq:NN-dethyl-4-[3-[methylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl][1-(3-thiazolyl-methyl)-4-piperidinylidene]methyl]} \\ benzamide;$ 

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

- 6. (cancelled)
- 7. (currently amended) A method for the therapy of pain, anxiety or functional gastrointestinal disorders, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof.
- 8. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 9. (currently amended) A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof.
- 10. (currently amended) A method for the therapy of functional gastrointestinal disorders in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step-of-administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof.
- 11. (currently amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula I, comprising:

reacting a compound of formula II with X-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>4</sup> or R<sup>4</sup>S(=O)<sub>2</sub>-O-S(=O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>.

wherein

## X is selected from CI, Br and I;

 $R^1$  is phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; pyrrolyl; or thiazolyl, wherein  $R^1$  is optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, halogenated  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $-NO_2$ ,  $-CF_{3_0}$ ,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo; selected from  $C_{6-10}$ aryl and  $C_{2-6}$ heterearyl, wherein said  $C_{6-10}$ aryl and  $C_{2-6}$ heterearyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R,  $-NO_2$ , -OR, -Cl, -Br, -l, -F,  $-CF_{3-1}$ , -C(-O)R, -C(-O)OH,  $-NH_2$ , -SH, -NHR,  $-NR_2$ , -SR,  $-SO_2H$ ,  $-SO_2R$ , -S(-O)R, -CH, -CH, -C(-O)OR,  $-C(-O)NR_2$ , -NRC(-O)R, and -NRC(-O)OR, wherein -R is, independently, a hydrogen or  $-C_{1-6}$ alkyl; and

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are, independently, C<sub>1:3</sub>alkyl or halogenated C<sub>1:3</sub>alkyl selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1:3</sub>alkyl, and C<sub>3:6</sub>cycloalkyl, wherein said C<sub>1:6</sub>alkyl and C<sub>3:6</sub>cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from R, NO<sub>2</sub>, OR, Cl, Br, I, F, CF<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)R,

-C(=0)OH, NH<sub>2</sub>, SH, NHR, NR<sub>3</sub>, SR, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>2</sub>R, S(=0)R, CN, OH, C(=0)OR, C(=0)NR<sub>2</sub>, NRC(=0)R, and NRC(=0) OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>  $_{68}$ lkyl; and

## R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

- 12 (currently amended) A method for the therapy of pain, anxiety or functional gastrointestinal disorders, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 2, or pharmaceutically acceptable saits thereof, or diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof.
- 13. (currently amended) A method for the therapy of pain, anxiety or functional gastrointestinal disorders, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 3, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof.
- 14. (currently amended) A method for the therapy of anxiety, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof.
- 15. (currently amended) A method for the therapy of anxiety, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 2, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof.
- 16. (currently amended) A method for the therapy of anxiety, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 3, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof.
- 17. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 2, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 3, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or diastereomers, enantiomers, or <u>mixtures thereof</u> and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 4, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or diastereomers, enantiomers, or <u>mixtures thereof</u> and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.